

David J. Asai

The focus of my research is the molecular motor dynein. Our laboratory has contributed to the elucidation of the structure of the dynein motor domain, the identification of multiple dyneins expressed in a single organism (25 different dyneins in *Tetrahymena*!), and the understanding of the functional specialization and evolution of dyneins. I edited two volumes for *Methods in Cell Biology*: (i) *Antibodies in Cell Biology* and, with Jim Forney, (ii) *Tetrahymena Thermophila*. I was a Visiting Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, served on the boards of trustees of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association and the National PTA, and was inducted into Purdue's Book of Great Teachers. My undergraduate degrees are in chemistry and biology from Stanford University, and my PhD is in biology from Caltech. I was on the faculty at Purdue University for 19 years including three years as Head of Biological Sciences, and I was Stuart Mudd Professor and Chair of Biology at Harvey Mudd College for five years. Since August, 2008, I am Director of Precollege and Undergraduate Science Education at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.